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DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

286 Main Street

Pawtucket, RI

Business Office Numbers

Information: 588-3020

111101111atio11: 388-3020	
Accidents	588-3001
Cashiers	588-3002
Data Control	588-3004
Dealers' License & Registration Office	588-3005
Enforcement	588-3006
Financial Responsibility	588-3007
Handicapped Plates	588-3008
License Examinations	588-3009
License Renewals	
Oversize Permits	588-3011
Plates	588-3012
Road Tests (Pawtucket)	588-3013
Sales Tax/Motor Vehicles ONLY	588-3015
School Bus Safety	588-3016
Tax Delinquent	588-3017
Titles	588-3018

Safety & Emission Control,

325 Melrose Street, Providence Garage...... 222-3884

Safety & Emission Control,

325 Melrose Street, Providence Office....... 222-3886

A MESSAGE TO THE READER

Read this Driver's Manual carefully. It contains a wealth of information that you will need to know to be a good driver. The information on the written test and the driver's test is covered in this manual.

Once you have gotten your driver's license, keep this manual where you can find it easily and refer to it. Please read on...

Applying for a Rhode Island Driver's License

If you are age 16 before January 1, 1999, you may apply for a temporary driver's permit. After the permit period and a driving test, persons in this category can apply for a full operator's license. The graduated license law does not apply to those 16 years of age prior to January 1, 1999.

Rhode Island has a graduated licensing system for persons under age 18 wishing to drive a motor vehicle. This applies to all persons who reach the age of 16 on or after January 1, 1999. The three levels are: limited instructional permit, limited provisional license and full operator's license. They are described below.

BEFORE GETTING A LIMITED INSTRUCTIONAL PERMIT

What do I do first if I want to get my Limited Instructional Permit?

If you are between the ages of 16 and 18, there are two requirements you must complete before you can get your Limited Instructional Permit. First, you must pass an accredited 33-hour classroom driver education class. Second, you must take a written test. If you are over age 18, you are not required to attend the classroom course, but you must take the written test.

How do I enroll in a driver education class?

Contact the Rhode Island Department of Education at 222-4600 (TTY# 1-800-745-5555) for information about locations and dates of classes. You will be required to bring the following items: proof of identity



and age (a birth certificate or passport) and a check or money order made out to the RI General Treasurer for \$45.00, which is the fee for the course.

Can I take the driver education course before the age of 16?

Although you cannot obtain a Limited Instruction Permit until you are 16, you are eligible to enroll in a driver education course in your area when you are between 15 years, 10 months of age and 18 years of age. At all locations the oldest youth present during registration will be enrolled first.

Who must take the written test?

All applicants required to take the 33-hour driver education course must take the written examination through the Department of Education. Applicants must successfully complete the course and the written test to apply for their Limited Instruction Permit.

Other first time applicants must take the examination at one of the offices of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). All applicants must take a vision test.



The test is untimed and usually takes 20-30 minutes to complete. No appointment is necessary. Licensed applicants from other states are exempt from taking the written test, but must turn in their out-of-state licenses for cancellation.

Applicants holding active licenses from foreign countries may retain their foreign country license but must take the written examination as well as a driving test.

The main branch of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is handicapped accessible. For information on handicapped accessibility, call the DMV at 588-3020 (TTY# 1-800-722-0088).

How do I prepare for the written test?

The written test questions are based on the motor vehicle laws and the rules of the road. Applicants should study this manual to prepare for the written test. The test is available in other languages on request.

LEVEL ONE: LIMITED INSTRUCTION PERMIT

What is a Limited Instruction Permit?

The Limited Instruction Permit is a kind of preliminary license for persons learning to drive who have passed the written test.

How do I get my Limited Instruction Permit?

You may apply for a Limited Instruction Permit at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Applicants for permits must show a certified birth certificate (not a copy) plus a driver education certificate if they are under age 18, and pay a \$10.00 fee. Your parents, legal guardian, licensed foster parent or adult spouse must accompany you and sign the Instruction Permit application in the presence of a notary who witnesses the signature. This person



must be a resident of Rhode Island and qualified to be a supervising driver. A supervising driver must be a licensed driver who has been licensed to drive for at least five (5) years.

What does a Limited Instruction Permit allow me to do?

With a Limited Instruction Permit, you can practice driving under the supervision of a properly licensed driver who has held a license for at least five (5) years. The licensed driver must be sitting beside you at all times and be ready to take control of the vehicle in an emergency. The licensed driver is legally responsible for any driving violation you may commit. You must wear a safety belt as required by law unless you provide the DMV with a physician's letter indicating you cannot wear a safety belt for medical reasons. All passengers must wear a seatbelt or be in a child restraint as required by law.

How long must I drive with a Limited Instruction Permit?

You must hold a Limited Instruction Permit for at least six (6) months. If it expires before you have passed the driving test, you must take the written test again or be recertified by the Rhode Island Department of Education and obtain a new Limited Instruction Permit.

How long is a Limited Instruction Permit valid?

The Permit is valid for one year or until you reach the age of 18 whichever comes first. A Permit may be extended if satisfactory evidence of a hardship is presented to the DMV.

If you reach the age of 18 before having a Limited Instructional Permit for one (1) year, you may apply for a full Operator's License at this time.



LEVEL TWO: LIMITED PROVISIONAL LICENSE

When can I get a Limited Provisional License?

In order to get this license, you must:

- ✓ ...have held for at least six (6) months a Limited Instructional Permit issued by the DMV.
- ✓ ...not have been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or a seat belt infraction during the previous six (6) months.
- ✓ …have passed the driving test administered by the DMV.

What is the driving test?

An applicant for a Limited Instruction Permit or a first license must pass a driving test administered by a DMV motor vehicle examiner. You provide the automobile to be used in the test.

How do I apply for the driving test?

Once a Limited Instruction Permit is issued, you should begin practicing your driving. Be sure to schedule your road test with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) before the one (1) year Limited Instruction Permit expires. Call or visit the main office of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Pawtucket (401-588-3009) or one of the branch offices to schedule your driving test (see back of manual for addresses and phone numbers of local branches).

· What is covered on the driving test?

The test includes pre-driving procedures, driving in traffic, parking, making proper turns and other common driving experiences. If you fail the road test, you must reschedule your test and take it again.

Who must take the driving test?

All first time applicants must take the driving test. Persons with a valid

driver's license from another state are not required to take the driving test.

Once I pass the driving test, what's next?

You must go to the Division of Motor Vehicles to get your Limited Provisional License if you were age 16 on or after 1/1/99 or to get your full operator's license if you were age 16 before 1/1/99. You must do this before your Limited Instruction Permit expires. If you are under 18, you must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, licensed foster parent or adult spouse. In the event there is not a person who meets these requirements, then you may bring with you a responsible adult who is willing to assume the legal obligation of a person signing the application of a minor under age 18. In all cases, the person must be a resident of Rhode Island and qualified to be a supervising driver, that is, a driver who has been licensed to drive for at least five (5) years.

What is the fee for a Limited Provisional License?

The fee is \$10.00. This fee is subject to change through statute. Please check with the DMV to verify this fee.

What are the conditions of a Limited Provisional License?

With a provisional license in your possession you can drive a motor vehicle under certain conditions:

With supervision:

- ✓ At any time.
- ✓ A supervising driver must be seated beside you while the vehicle is in motion.

Without supervision in any of the following circumstances:

- ✓ Between 5:00 AM and 1:00 AM.
- ✓ When driving to or from work.
- ✓ When driving to or from any activity of a volunteer fire department,



volunteer rescue squad or volunteer emergency medical service if you are a member of such organization.

At all times everyone in the vehicle must be properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system. This license expires on your eighteenth (18) birthday.

LEVEL THREE: FULL OPERATOR'S LICENSE

When can I get my Full Operator's License?

In order to get your full operator's license you must:

- ✓ ...be at least seventeen (17) years, 6 months old.
- \checkmark ...have held for at least twelve (12) months a Limited Provisional License issued by the DMV.
- ✓ ...have not been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction during the past six (6) months.

Are there any restrictions for the Full Operator's License?

With a Full Operator's License, you may drive without restrictions concerning time of driving and supervision. You are, of course, still required to follow all other rules of the road, including those applying to seat belts and child restraint systems.

What is the fee for a driver's license?

First license applicants receive two-year (2-year) licenses at a fee of \$12.00. The normal license fee is \$30.00 for a five-year (5-year) license. These fees are subject to change through statute. Please check with the DMV to verify these fees.

What happens if my license is suspended?

You will be required to turn in your license in person to the Operator Control Section or the Accident Section of the DMV. Failure to comply will affect the reinstatement of your license. A license suspension will affect you in the following ways:

- 1. You cannot legally drive a car in Rhode Island or any other state for any reason.
- 2. Your motor vehicle violations become a matter of public record. They are open to public inspection by insurance companies and other interested parties. Your insurance rates may go up significantly.

RHODE ISLAND'S GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM

The following is a summary of the three levels of licensing. To receive a Level 1: Limited Instruction Permit you must:

- ✓ ...be 16 to 18 years of age.
- ...successfully complete the 33 hour Rhode Island Driver Education course administered by the RI Department of Education or its equivalent.
- ✓ ...apply for a permit at the Registry of Motor Vehicles in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse or licensed foster parent.

At level 1, you are permitted to drive a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

- ✓ ... The permit holder must be in possession of the permit.
- ✓ ... A supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion (a supervising driver is defined as a properly licensed driver who has held a license for at least five (5) years.
- ✓ ...No person other than the supervising driver is located in the front seat of the automobile.
- ✓ ... Every person occupying the vehicle is properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system.

To receive a Level 2: Limited Provisional License you must:

- ✓ ...have held a limited instruction permit for at least six months without any conviction of motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction.
- ✓ ...pass the motor vehicle road test administered by the Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- ✓ ...apply for the license at the Registry of Motor Vehicles in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse or licensed foster parent.

At level 2, you are permitted to drive a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

- ✓ ... The license holder must be in possession of the Limited Provisional License.
- ✓ ...At anytime with a supervising driver seated beside the provisional license holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion.
- ✓ ...Without supervision in any of the following circumstances: from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., when driving to or from work, when driving to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, rescue squad or emergency medical service if the driver is a member of such organization.
- ✓ ... Every person occupying the vehicle is properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system.

To receive a Level 3: Full Operator's License You must:

- ✓ ...be 17 years, 6 months to 18 years of age.
- ✓ ...have held a limited provisional license for at least twelve (12) months without conviction for motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction for six (6) months.
- ...apply for this license in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse or licensed foster parent.

At level 3 you may drive a motor vehicle without Level 1 and 2 restrictions concerning time of driving, supervision and passenger limitations.

Basic Driving Skills and Safety Rules

BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE

Most motorists can drive safely for years by using care, courtesy and caution. Most accidents are caused by errors of the driver and occur within a few miles of people's homes. Safe driving starts before you turn on the engine; please take the following steps every time you get in your car:

- 1. Adjust the seat.
- 2. Adjust the inside and outside mirrors.
- Adjust ventilation.
- 4. Lock doors.
- 5. Fasten and adjust your seat belts.
- 6. Ask passengers to fasten their seat belts.
- 7. Check in front and behind the car for objects, animals or persons in your path.

STOPPING YOUR CAR

Even when road and vehicle conditions are ideal and the driver is perfectly alert, it takes a great distance to stop a motor vehicle. To stop your vehicle, three things must happen:

- 1. You must recognize the danger and the need to stop.
- 2. Your brain must tell your foot to step on the brakes.

3. Your foot must move to the brake pedal and operate the brake.

The distance your vehicle travels from the moment you see danger until you step on the brake is called reaction distance. After seeing danger, it takes the average driver about 3/4 of a second to apply the brakes. The higher the driving speed, the further your vehicle will travel before you are able to apply the brakes.

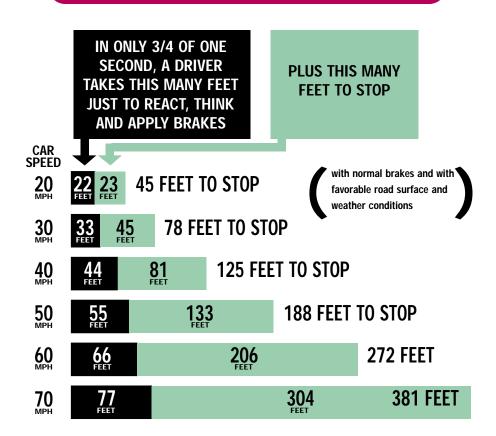
The distance your vehicle travels from the time the brakes are applied to the time that the vehicle is brought to a stop is called **braking distance**. Braking distance will vary depending on the conditions of the road. It is important to realize that on wet or icy roads the braking distance will be much longer. Therefore, when driving in these conditions, you must drive slower. Oil, rubber, dirt and water combined make roads especially slippery when it first starts to rain.

In addition, two situations may occur which can prevent you from stopping when you need to:

Velocitizing occurs when you begin to feel that you are going slower than your actual speed. You can avoid this by varying your speed slightly when driving long distances on the highway.

Hydroplaning occurs when the front tires of your vehicle may lose contact with the road surface on a wet road. Guard against hydroplaning by keeping tire pressure inflated to the manufacturer's recommended standard, reducing speed, and being careful how you drive in the rain.

SPEED AND STOPPING DISTANCE



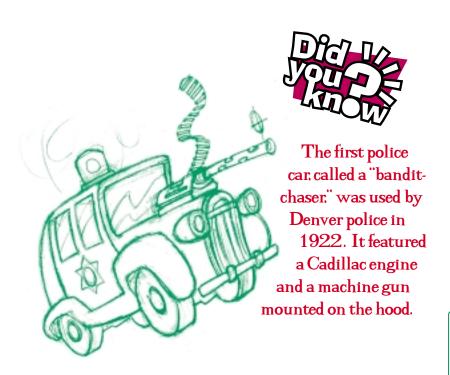
HOW TO AVOID SKIDDING

Most skids are caused by the driver's failure to react in time to adjust the vehicle's speed to road and traffic conditions. When you are driving on a slippery road, you should apply the brakes by very gently pumping them and maintaining the proper speed for the road conditions. On roads that

are wet or icy, you should never make any sudden changes in speed or direction. If your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump the brakes! Know your vehicle and follow the instructions included in your owner's manual.

HOW TO CONTROL A VEHICLE IN A SKID:

To control a car as it begins to skid, keep your foot off the brake and clutch pedals, slowly reduce speed, and turn in the direction of the skid. There is no set rule for vehicle control. Different techniques may be required depending on whether the vehicle is front wheel drive, rear-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. Consult your owner's manual for instructions.

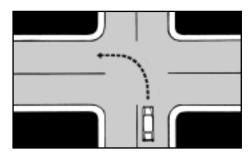


HOW TO TURN

How to make a Left Turn:

One-sixth of all accidents take place when one car is turning left. Most of these would not happen if the driver made the turn properly. Follow these steps to make a proper left turn:

1. Upon approaching an intersection at which you wish to make a left turn, you must give the proper signal in sufficient time to warn the driver of any car behind you. As you gradually slow down, watch the mirror to see that the driver of the car behind you has



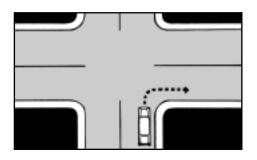
understood your signal. If the road is wide enough for you to do so without crossing the center line, leave room for following cars to pass on your right. Be sure that no car behind you is trying to pass on your left

and, above all, never pull suddenly to your left from the right-hand lane. If you can't work your way to the center early enough, go on to the next intersection.

- 2. When you reach the intersection, wait until the way is clear. Both the motor vehicle directly approaching you and the vehicle approaching on your right have the right-of-way.
- 3. When the road is clear, make your turn at the proper speed and keep to the right of the center. After turning into a four-lane road, keep driving in the center lane until you can change to the right lane without getting in the way of other cars.
- 4. Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the street.

How to Make a Right Turn:

When you wish to make a right turn, you must first give the proper signal. Right turns must be taken from the extreme right-hand side of the road. Do not develop the dangerous habit of swinging to the left before

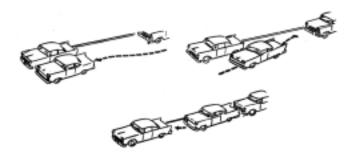


turning right. This is likely to make the driver of the car following you assume you are going to turn left.

STOPPING AND PARKING

To Leave a Traffic Lane to Enter a Parking Space:

- 1. Move into the traffic lane nearest the parking space.
- 2. Use a turn signal to indicate your intentions.
- 3. Enter the parking space using the three steps shown in the diagram below.
- 4. Stop the engine, lock the ignition switch, remove the key, and set the parking brake.

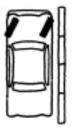


To Enter a Traffic Lane from a Parked Position:

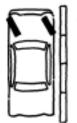
- 1. After starting the engine and releasing the parking brake, maneuver the vehicle to a position from which re-entry into the traffic lane can be made in one motion.
- 2. Look to the rear. Check the rear view and side view mirrors and look over your left shoulder to cover the blind spots.
- 3. Signal and drive out carefully.
- 4. Enter the driving lane that is closest to the parking space.



How to Park on Hills:

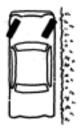


DOWN HILL
With or without
curb, turn wheels
to the right.



UP HILL WITH CURB

Turn wheels to the left against curb.



UP HILL w/o CURB Turn wheels to the right.

Where You May Not Park Or Stop:

- on the travel portion of the highway
- beside a car stopped or parked at the side of a street
- on a sidewalk
- within an intersection
- · on a crosswalk
- beside any road work so that you block traffic
- on a bridge or in a tunnel
- on any railroad tracks
- any place where official signs prohibit stopping
- in front of any driveway
- within 8 feet of a fire hydrant
- within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection

- within 30 feet of a flashing red or yellow light, a stop sign or a traffic light
- within 20 feet of the driveway of a fire station or across the street within 75 feet of the driveway, when there are signs
- any place where a sign says 'No Parking'
- within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing, unless you stop for just a short time to load or unload passengers or packages
- at any curbcut or ramp for handicapped persons.

Unless a law prohibits parking, a car parked on a two-lane road must have the right wheels within twelve (12) inches of the right side of the road or curb. On a one-way road a parked car must have either wheels within twelve (12) inches of the side of the road and headed in the same way the traffic goes.

To Stop In An Emergency:

If you wish to stop and the accelerator of your vehicle sticks, try picking up the accelerator with your foot. If this fails:

- 1. Apply brakes and shift to neutral.
- 2. Check traffic and signal a lane change.
- 3. Choose a safe path and steer the car off the road, continuing to apply the brakes.
- 4. When you are off the road, turn off the car's ignition and apply the parking brake.

STARTING ON A HILL



When you take your driving test you may have to stop and start on a hill. You will be instructed by the examiner to drive to the right side of the

road, stop, and then set your parking brake and shift to neutral. The parking brake must hold the car from rolling back.

When starting on the hill, look over your left shoulder to be sure that traffic is clear, put the car in gear, signal, release the parking brake and drive out carefully. In a car with a standard shift, you should be able to drive up the hill without rolling back.

PASSING ANOTHER CAR

Passing A Car on the Left:

On multiple lane highways, the law requires you to use the left lane to pass and the right lane for normal driving. When you are being passed by another vehicle, you should slow a little and keep right. This will allow the other driver to pass more safely.

When approaching another vehicle from the rear and you want to pass, be sure you have sufficient distance to pass safely. First, give a left turn signal to let the driver behind you know that you will be pulling out. Second, look to the rear through the rear view mirror and over your left shoulder to view any blind spots that may exist. Then proceed to change lanes and pass on the left. At night it might be necessary to blink your headlights from low to high to low beam to warn the driver in front of you that you intend to pass. You should go far enough beyond the vehicle you are passing so that you are able to see the left front headlight of that vehicle in your inside rear view mirror. It will then be safe to return to the right side of the road. In general, pass cars only on the left.

Passing A Car on the Right:

A driver may pass on the right of another vehicle only as follows:

- · when the motor vehicle ahead is making or about to make a left turn
- on a street or highway that is wide enough for two or more lanes of traffic with no obstructions and not occupied by parked vehicles.
- on a one-way street or roadway wide enough for two or more lanes of traffic and free of obstructions or parked vehicles. Under no conditions can a motor vehicle be passed by driving off the pavement or main traveled part of the road.

Passing on a hill, curve, railroad crossing or intersection is against the law, is dangerous, and may be the last mistake you make.

FREEWAY DRIVING

Driving on freeways can be easier than on other types of roads (no crossroads, traffic lights, or pedestrians) provided the motorist takes necessary precautions and remains alert. Because of the higher speeds of freeway traffic, you may be called upon to think faster, to anticipate situations and to act sooner.

Sudden lane changes on a freeway by you or another driver can be dangerous. You should use the proper signal for every lane change. When you want to pass, check for fast-approaching cars to the rear and use your turn signals briefly before swinging out as well as before turning back into the right lane.

If you must stop on a freeway because of mechanical or other difficulties, signal and move into the breakdown lane if possible. Beware of cars that might be traveling wrongfully in the breakdown lane.

Beware of the condition called **velocitizing**. This happens when you

begin to feel that you are going slower than your actual speed. Be particularly aware of velocitizing when preparing to leave a freeway. You must reduce speed, adjusting downward, and return to normal driving conditions as you approach the exit.

On long freeway trips, pull off the road to a safe place occasionally to rest. To avoid the effects of highway hypnosis, a condition caused by long periods of driving, get out of the car for a while to relax and to take refreshment.

If it becomes necessary to make repairs along any highway, be sure to move the car to a place where all four wheels are off the main pavement. Be sure to turn on the vehicle's emergency flashing lights. If available use flares, reflectors, or triangles.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Defensive driving is the art of protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected changes in the driving environment. The defensive driver anticipates actions of other road users and is ready to adjust speed and position accordingly. The defensive driver also adjusts to changes in weather and road conditions. The driver can learn to develop defensive driving habits and skills by following the four steps described below:

Identify: Locate any hazards in the driving scene by getting the big picture.

Predict: Judge where possible points of conflict may occur.

Decide: Determine the actions to take and when and where to take them.

Execute: Act by maneuvering the car to avoid any conflicts.

This 'thinking-doing' process is called "IPDE." IPDE can help you to

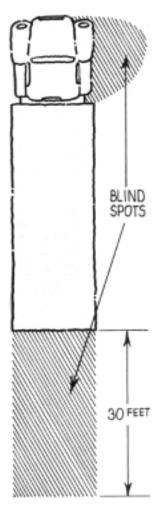
avoid collisions. With practice, this process will become automatic. IPDE will help you become a defensive driver.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH LARGE TRUCKS

The National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration warns that big trucks are four
(4) times more likely than cars to get into
accidents. Trucks are less maneuverable
than cars and also come with far bigger blind
spots. The first is near the right front fender
and wheels. The second is behind the truck.
(If it is a tractor-trailer, the blind spot is 30
feet long.)

It is up to you to avoid both spots. Be sure not to cruise into a truck's right side. If you find yourself in that position, pull ahead or fall back quickly. As you do, grip the steering wheel firmly, especially if narrow lanes force you to drive close to the truck. The airflow between the two vehicles may tend to draw them together unless you are on guard.

It is just as important never to tailgate. Tailgating can be fatal especially if the vehicle ahead is a tractor-trailer. Stay at least 30 feet back if you expect the driver to see you.

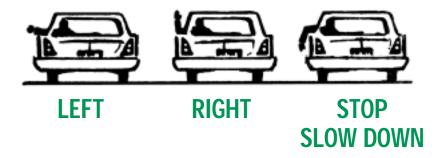


Signals, Highway Markings, and Signs

SIGNALS

The law states that a driver has to make a signal by hand or by using directional lights when driving out of a parking place and at least 100 feet before making a turn.

These are the hand signals to use:



To turn left: Put left hand and arm straight out, keeping hand and arm still.

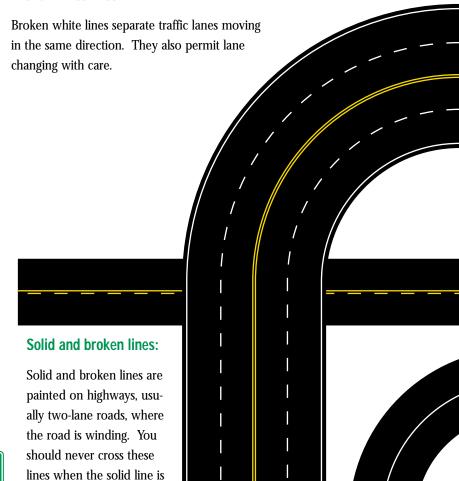
To turn right: Put left hand and arm up, keeping hand and arm still.

To stop or slow down: Put left hand and arm down, keeping hand and arm still.

All signals should be given in time to let drivers in back of you know what you are going to do.

HIGHWAY MARKINGS

Broken white lines:



MILE 2 4

on your road.

Yellow center lines:

Yellow center lines separate traffic lanes moving in opposite directions. Broken yellow lines permit passing. A yellow double line consisting of one broken line and one solid line permits passing in one direction. Two solid yellow lines prohibit passing in both directions.

Double white lines:

Double white lines are painted upon the highways to divide the roadway and are usually found on four-lane highways. They should not be crossed except in extreme emergency and then only when the lanes on your side of the road are blocked by stopped or slow-moving large vehicles.

Single white lines:

Single white lines are painted upon the highway to divide the lanes of travel and should be crossed only when it is necessary to pass a vehicle or other object using the lane in which you are traveling.

SIGNS

Regulatory Signs:

Regulatory Signs inform highway users of traffic laws or regulations that would not otherwise be apparent.



Warning Signs:

Warning signs are used when it is necessary to alert drivers to existing or potential hazardous conditions.







TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Traffic lights allow vehicles to proceed safely through busy intersections. They give the right-of-way to drivers and pedestrians one street at a time. When a driver fails to stop at a red light, others who have a green light should not insist on the right-of-way. They should be alert and prepared to stop to avoid an accident. You should slow down and proceed with caution when approaching all intersections.

Red Light: Stop before reaching the crosswalk and wait until the light is green (unless another light such as a green arrow directs you otherwise).

Right Turn on Red: Except when a sign is placed prohibiting a right turn on red, vehicles may turn right on a steady red light after the driver has stopped completely and yielded the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.

Green Light: You may proceed but use caution to avoid hitting another vehicle or pedestrian.

Yellow Light: A yellow light tells a driver that a red light is next. Slow down and proceed with caution if a stop cannot be made safely.

Flashing Yellow Light: Slow down and proceed with caution.

Flashing Red Light: When nearing a flashing red traffic light, you must make a full stop and yield the right-of-way to all cars on your right and left.

Traffic Light with a Green Arrow: In cities, intersections often have traffic lights that show a green arrow while the red light is on. Vehicles at the light may proceed into the intersection and turn in the direction indicated by the green arrow.

Traffic Light with a Red Arrow: Red arrows are usually used on left-hand turns. When a red arrow is displayed, you must stop and you

may not proceed. When the red arrow goes out, it will be followed either by a green arrow or a green light indicating you may proceed. If there is a lane marked for turning, you should be in that lane when approaching the intersection, and then signal and make the turn so as not to interfere with other traffic.



Sharing the Road Safely

FIVE SAFETY KEYS TO ACCIDENT-FREE DRIVING

- **1. Aim high in steering**. Don't look down your fender or hood but ahead at the middle of your driving lane.
- **2. Get the overall picture.** Look ahead a full block in towns and half a mile ahead on highways. You want to see everything in the space you are moving into, along with the cars you see ahead of you.
- **3. Keep your eyes moving.** Don't look at one thing. Look ahead, look at the sides, and look in your rearview mirror.
- **4. Leave yourself an out.** Situations may occur that you don't plan on. Keep plenty of space between you and the next car.
- **5. Make sure they see you.** Don't take for granted that others can see your car. Tap you horn or flick you headlights up and down if you need to.

NIGHT DRIVING

Using Your Headlights:

It is more dangerous to drive at night than in the daytime because you cannot see as far ahead at night. The law requires headlights on vehicles to be turned on when driving from sunset to

sunrise, and any time vou cannot see



500 feet ahead of you and when windshield wipers are in use as a result of rain, sleet, snow, etc.

When bad weather has reduced visibility during the daytime, you should turn on your headlights. The law requires that you use your low beam headlights during bad weather conditions such as snow, rain and fog or whenever there are conditions which reduce visibility.

The back license plate on your car must be lighted so it can be seen and read at least 60 feet from the back of the car.

Dimming Your Headlights:

When driving a motor vehicle on the open highway at night, you should dim your high beam headlights when meeting or following another vehicle. Dim your high beam headlights promptly at a distance of at least 500 feet ahead. When following another vehicle at a distance of 200 feet or less, dim your headlights so that they will not distract the driver ahead.



According to a poll, Americans need their cars.

They would rather turn off the TV (70%),

unplug the telephone (60%), or forgo romance

(65%), than to be without their

cars for a day.

Approaching Headlights:

To avoid being temporarily blinded by approaching headlights, look at the right edge of the highway until the bright lights have gone by and your vision has returned to normal. This practice will also help you detect pedestrians who may be walking close to the edge of the road.

Using the Two Second Distance - A Safe Following Distance:

The following two-second rule can guarantee you time to stop. Here 's how it works: When the car ahead passes a point (traffic sign, pole, tree, a mark or line on the pavement, etc.) start counting seconds, "one-thousand and one, one-thousand and two." If your car passes the point before you finish your count, you are following too closely. Just drop back a little and check it again. When driving under adverse conditions, be sure to add another second or two to your count and your following distance.

When you see a potential hazard ahead, children playing in the street, a car parked close to the highway, or whatever, slow down right away. Do not wait until you get there before acting. Stop if necessary.

PEDESTRIANS

Drivers must watch carefully for pedestrians. Many accidents are the result of pedestrians not paying attention to or entering traffic carelessly. Many other accidents are caused by drivers who fail to yield the right-of-way or do not use caution when pedestrians are present. Consider the following suggestions for pedestrian safety:

- Drive slowly and remain alert in any areas where there are pedestrians present.
- Watch for pedestrians who are walking against a red light, stepping into traffic from between parked cars, and crossing in locations

where there is not a marked crosswalk. Even in situations where pedestrians cross the street carelessly, the driver must always yield.

- Use caution when children are playing in or near the street. Children often move quickly and do not check for traffic.
- Use caution in the presence of elderly pedestrians. They may not be alert to the dangers of traffic situations.
- Do not stop to pick up hitchhikers at anytime.
- Use extra caution when approaching a blind pedestrian. When a pedestrian who has a white cane or is being led by a guide dog is crossing or attempting to cross the street ahead of you, you must stop and yield the right-of-way.

Pedestrians must realize the dangers of walking in traffic and should be aware of the following safety rules and suggestions:

- Always obey 'Walk' or 'Don't Walk' signs.
- If facing a yellow or red light, cross only if a 'Walk' sign is showing.
- When there are sidewalks, pedestrians should not walk on or along the highway. If there are no sidewalks, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Use crosswalks. The main purpose of crosswalks is to encourage pedestrians to cross only at certain locations where crossing can be made safely.
- When walking at dusk or at night, pedestrians should wear light colored clothing or reflective clothing.

SCHOOL BUSES

If red lights are flashing on the school bus, the law requires that motorists approaching from either direction come to a full stop and remain stopped until the bus' red lights no longer flash. This requirement applies not only on public highways but also on private roads and in parking lots. A fine up to \$300.00 and/or revocation of your driver's license for a period up to thirty (30) days will be imposed for the first violation of this law. Penalties increase for additional violations.



BICYCLE RIDERS

Bicycle riders are given the same rights and must obey the same laws as drivers of automobiles. In addition, they should follow these rules:

- Bicycle riders should ride as close to the right of the road as they can do safely. They must cross the lane of vehicle travel to make a left turn.
- No more than two bicycles may ride side by side.
- When there is a safe bicycle path near the roadway, riders should use the path rather than the road.
- Any person 8 years of age or younger riding a bicycle or a passenger on a bicycle on a public highway, bicycle path or other public right of way must wear a certified bicycle helmet.
- Motor vehicle drivers must be alert and cautious for bicycle riders in or near the street.

SAFE DRIVING ON THE HIGHWAY

The following are recommendations to be a safe highway driver:

- Drive at or below posted speed limits. Rhode Island law sets speed limits as follows: 25 miles per hour (mph) in residential areas and 50 to 65 mph on most highways.
- Don't tailgate. The easiest way to tell if you are a safe distance from the car ahead of you is the two-second distance rule. If the road is wet or slippery, you will need additional distance.
- Don't drive at the same speed for a long time. Change your speed occasionally on long trips.
- · Look behind you now and then in your rearview mirror. Never

pass a car until you are sure no one is coming up behind you in the passing lane.

- Always signal before changing lanes. Do this soon enough to let other drivers know what you are going to do.
- Never stop in the traffic lane. Stop on a highway only if you must. Move as far off the traffic lane as you can. If you need help, raise the hood of your car, tie a white cloth on the door handle and stay in your locked car.
- Drive in the right lane unless otherwise posted or if you are passing another vehicle. Making frequent lane changes is unsafe.
- Stop and rest when drowsy. Driving when drowsy is a major cause of serious accidents.
- Slow down and drive with care in bad weather. Icy and snow covered highways can be very dangerous.
- If you miss your exit ramp, go on to the next exit. Never stop and back up to the missed exit.
- Keep your eyes moving, looking at other cars. Always be aware of what is going on around you.
- Give emergency vehicles the right of way at all times. If an emergency vehicle is approaching, pull over, stop and wait for it to pass.
- Be especially careful when buses stop. Passengers may be entering or leaving buses.
- Never take the right of way for granted. The law grants the right of way, but the other driver may not. Yield to the other driver in these cases; it may save a life.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

In its broadest sense, aggressive driving can refer to any incident in which an angry or impatient motorist or passenger intentionally injures or hits or attempts to injure or hurt another motorist, passenger or pedestrian, in response to a traffic dispute or grievance. Incidences of aggressive driving cases have increased each year in the United States. As the driver of a motor vehicle, keep calm in traffic, be patient and courteous to other drivers and avoid unsafe driving habits that can endanger or anger other motorists. Be aware of behaviors that have resulted in violence in the past:

- blocking the passing lane (not yielding to someone wishing to pass)
- tailgating (riding too close to the car in front of you)
- making angry or obscene gestures
- · honking your horn repeatedly
- taking more than one parking space, or bumping another vehicle with your car.
- · using high beams in traffic areas
- blocking traffic to speak to a passerby or people in another vehicle
- cutting off another vehicle so that it cannot merge, pass, exit or make a turn
- · assuming that an apparently aggressive act was deliberate

To avoid becoming an aggressive driver:

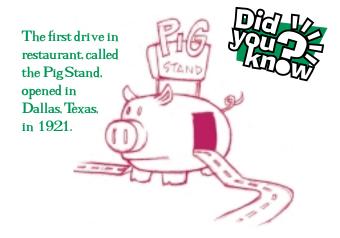
- take breaks on long drives.
- focus on your driving and not on the problems of your day.
- be comfortable and relaxed when you drive.
- avoid all alcohol use before driving.
- · avoid eye contact with a hostile or angry driver.

• don't drive when you are angry, upset or overtired.

To avoid becoming a victim of aggressive driving:

- do not react to any form of aggressive driving.
- avoid speeding up, braking or swerving suddenly, or making eye contact with other drivers.
- if a driver continues to hassle or follow you, drive to the nearest police station or busy place to get help.
- lock your doors whenever you leave your car.
- when stopped in traffic, leave enough room to pull out from behind the vehicle you are following.
- if someone tries to get into your automobile, sound your horn or auto alarm.
- avoid a fight at all costs.
- do not carry any sort of weapon.

If you are challenged by a aggressive driver, take a deep breath and get out of the way, even if you are right. You don't want to be dead right. Save your energy and your life for something worthwhile.



Laws You Must Know

It is your responsibility as a driver in Rhode Island to know all motor vehicle laws. Some of the most important ones are listed below:

- Drivers of motor vehicles in Rhode Island are permitted, not required, to turn right at a red light after a full stop unless there is a "No turn on red" sign posted. Drivers must yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
- Children less than six years old must be properly restrained and transported in the back seat of a motor vehicle.
- Children who are less than four years old must be transported in a federally approved restraint seat in the back seat of the vehicle. Follow instructions for use described in the restraint seat manual for age and weight.
- Seat belt use by the driver and passengers is required.
- Be alert to stop for school buses with flashing red lights.
- You must begin to use your directional signals for a distance of at least 100 feet before making turns. Slow down gradually before turns to avoid being hit from the rear.
- In the absence of signs or signals, when two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different highways or streets at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.
- You must turn on vehicle lights when driving any time from sunset to sunrise and any time you cannot see 500 feet ahead of you. A helpful guide is to remember to turn on the lights when it starts to get dark, and if driving early in the morning, to have the lights on until there is daylight. Headlights

must also be turned on if it is raining or snowing or in conditions which would reduce visibility to less than 500 feet ahead.

- State law in Rhode Island makes the motorist responsible for removing from the vehicle snow and ice that limit vision and for clearing away from the roof of the car any snow that might blow down on the windshield or windows or onto the windshield of other cars.
- All persons driving on the state's public roads must carry motor vehicle liability insurance. When you obtain or renew your vehicle registration, you must sign a statement that you have liability insurance on your vehicle and will keep this insurance for the full registration period. Proof of insurance must be carried in your car along with the registration at all times.
- It is a violation of RI law to litter public or private roadways or property.
- You are required by law to reduce your speed and refrain from sounding a horn or causing other loud noises when approaching a horse being driven or ridden on a public highway.
- Drivers in Rhode Island are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle on a public highway while wearing earphones or headsets.
- If stopped by a law enforcement officer, you are required upon request to display your driver's license and vehicle registration card. Further, upon request, you are required to write your name in the presence of that officer for the purposes of being identified.
- You are required to exit the vehicle if the law enforcement officer tells you to.
- If stopped by a law enforcement officer at night, a motorist is required to turn on the vehicles interior lights and leave them on until the officer allows the driver to go on.
- All laws are subject to change.



Drinking and Driving

EFFECT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ON THE BODY

Alcohol is by far the greatest hazard for a driver. In Rhode Island, the legal drinking age is 21. Drunk drivers cause more than half of the accidents in which somebody is killed. More than 25,000 people die each year in alcohol-related accidents in the United States; 5000 are teenagers. If you drink, even just a little, your chances of an accident are seven (7) times greater than if you don't drink.

When alcohol enters your stomach, it goes into your blood and to all parts of your body. It reaches your brain in seconds affecting it before any other part of your body. Upon reaching your brain, alcohol affects first the control of your judgment and skill. You will have trouble estimating distances, speeds and the movement of other cars as well as trouble handling your own vehicle.

Alcohol slows you down; it doesn't pep you up. It slows down normal reflexes, interferes with judgment and reduces alertness and vision. Some people appear stimulated after drinking. This is because the alcohol has caused a loss of caution and self-control.

A 12-ounce container of beer, a 4-ounce glass of wine and 1-ounce shot of hard liquor have the same amount of alcohol. Any amount of alcohol can affect you differently at different times. For example, drinking on an empty stomach will affect the body faster than drinking after eating. Alcohol also affects you more if you are taking medicine or are tired.

After drinking, there is nothing that will reduce the effects of alcohol except time. Coffee, food, fresh air, exercise or cold showers might wake you up but they will not sober you up. Alcohol is burned up by the liver at a set rate and eliminated through the kidneys and lungs.

Almost any drug can affect your driving skill. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Most drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever, allergy, or to calm nerves can make you drowsy and can affect your control of the car.
- When taking prescription medicine, it is important to ask your doctor about any possible side effects which relate to driving.
- Even though pep pills, uppers, and diet pills can make you alert for a short time, later they can make you nervous, dizzy and unable to concentrate. They can also affect your vision.
- Tranquilizers or sedatives make you drowsy and make driving very dangerous especially when mixed with alcohol.
- Studies have shown that people who drive after smoking marijuana make more mistakes and get arrested for traffic violations more than other drivers. These drivers also have more trouble adjusting to headlight glare.
- Dangerous types of drugs can be obtained illegally. LSD and heroin are examples. They make users unaware or indifferent to their surroundings and unable to drive a motor vehicle safely.
- Many drugs, both legal and illegal, have unexpected effects when they are taken with alcohol. Alcohol and other drugs should never be used at the same time. Combining alcohol with another drug can multiply the effects of both. Not only does this pose a serious hazard to your health, but it can have a disastrous effect on your ability to drive. One drink taken when you are also taking another drug, even a simple allergy or cold remedy, could have the same effect on driving ability as having several alcoholic beverages.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT

The blood alcohol content, or BAC level, is the ratio of alcohol to blood present in the bloodstream at any given time. In Rhode Island, the BAC level is evidence that you are legally intoxicated or unfit to drive. The current BAC level set by law in Rhode Island is different for different ages:

Person 21 and over: .08 BAC

Persons under age 21: 0.02 BAC

"IMPLIED CONSENT"

'Implied consent' means that any person who drives a motor vehicle in Rhode Island has given consent to a chemical (breathalyzer/blood) test to determine the amount of alcohol, if any, in his/her blood if arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

For drivers 21 years of age or older, test results that show a BAC is in excess of 0.05 but less than .08, can be convicted of DWI if there is other evidence that you were driving under the influence of alcohol. If your BAC is .08 or more, it is evident by itself that you were intoxicated at the time of the test. However, you may be convicted of DWI even if you are not given a chemical test if the officer convinces the court that your ability to drive was affected by the alcohol.

REFUSAL TO TAKE THE BREATHALIZER TEST

If you refuse to take a chemical test, your license will be suspended for a minimum of ninety (90) days. You are also subject to a fine, a highway safety assessment, public community service, drunk driving school and/or an alcohol treatment program.

PENALITIES

The penalties for drunk driving are severe. They include a fine, suspension of license, a highway safety assessment, public community service, drunk driving school and/or alcohol treatment, and a possible jail sentence. If you have a prior DWI conviction or you have previously refused to submit to a chemical test, you will lose your license for a year or more.

The consequences of driving with a BAC over the legal level are severe. For drivers under age 21, a BAC level of 0.02 (which is less than one beer for most people) can result in the loss of your driver's license, time in family court with your parent(s), a fine of up to \$150, and community service of up to 100 hours.

Any person under 21 driving a motor vehicle on the public highways and having liquor or alcoholic beverages in any form or containers, open or unopened, in any part of the vehicle may have his/her license suspended for a period of up to thirty (30) days. It is against the law for a driver of any age to consume an alcoholic beverage while driving.

In Case of an Accident

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ACCIDENT

Try to keep calm.

Stop your car immediately.

Return to the scene of the accident and make your identity known to interested persons. Severe penalties are imposed against drivers who choose to leave the scene of an accident ("hit and run") without properly identifying themselves.

Report all accidents to the nearest state or local police immediately.

Request rescue assistance if personal injury is involved.

In the event of a minor accident, if possible, drive your car off to the side of the roadway and notify the police.

If you collide with or do damage to a parked car or other property, you must leave your name and address in writing attached securely to such vehicle or property so that is may be found by the owner when he/she returns to their vehicle. Also, report the accident to the nearest state or local police immediately.

Accidents involving personal injury or property damage in excess of \$500.00 must additionally be reported to the Safety Responsibility Section of the Division of Motor Vehicles within 21 days. Whenever the driver is physically incapable of making a written report of an accident to the Division of Motor Vehicles, and/or if the driver is not the owner of the

vehicle, then the owner of the vehicle involved in the accident must, within ten (10) days after learning of the accident, make the report not made by the driver.

When An Accident Report is Required:

An accident report is required if:

- someone is injured in the collision.
- property damage is over \$500.
- you hit an unattended vehicle.

WHAT TO REPORT IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT

Record the following information if you have been in an accident:

- The exact location. Note the names of the street or streets if the accident was at an intersection. You should also note the number of the house nearest the accident or the nearest mile marker number on an interstate highway. If possible, note how far it is from any marker such as a telephone pole, railroad crossing, street sign or highway marker.
- The exact time of the accident.
- The name, address, license and registration number of the other driver. This is your right and the right of the other driver to get this information.
- The names and addresses of all persons who witnessed the accident as well as those of the persons in the other car.
- The name of the police officer that is at the scene if one does come.
- A description of the exact damages.
- A description of any injuries.



COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

Most accidents can be avoided. Be mindful of the seven most common causes of accidents:

- ✓ driving after drinking and/or ingesting drugs
- ✓ driving too fast for road conditions
- ✓ not paying full attention to what you are doing
- ✓ driving too close to the car in front of you
- ✓ driving to the left of the center line
- ✓ not looking when driving away from the curb
- ✓ not yielding the right-of-way

ONE FINAL WORD.....

Driving a car is a privilege and not a right. A license to drive brings with it a serious responsibility for the safety of others and yourself. It has been said often that "the life you save may be your own." Always drive defensively and carefully. If you do, you will have many years of enjoyment on the road.



Juvenile Drunk Driving:

under 18 years of age, Family Court

1st Offense

- 10 to 60 hours of community service.
- 6- to 18-month license suspension.
- \$500 maximum highway safety assessment.
- Alcohol or drug treatment or \$250 driving school.

2nd and subsequent Offenses

- License suspended until 21 years of age.
- · Alcohol and/or drug treatment.
- Maximum 1 year sentence at the Rhode Island Training School, and/or a maximum fine of \$500.

Driving While Impaired: under 18 years of age Blood Alcohol Content: at least 0.02% but less than 0.10%

1st Offense

- \$150 highway safety assessment or community service.
- 6-month license suspension.
- Family Court Judge may order

"Driving While Intoxicated" course and/or alcohol-drug treatment.

2nd and subsequent Offenses

- License suspended until 21 years of age.
- Additional license suspension of 2 years for each subsequent offense.
- Alcohol and/or drug treatment.

Driving While Impaired: 18 to 21 years of age

Blood Alcohol Content: at least 0.02% but less than 0.10%

1st Offense

- \$100 fine.
- \$150 highway safety assessment.
- 1- to 3-month license suspension.
- 30 hours community service.
- Attend course: "Driving While Intoxicated."
- Take part in alcohol-drug treatment (judge's discretion).

2nd and subsequent Offenses

- \$250 fine.
- \$300 highway safety assessment.
- 3- to 6-month license suspension.
- \bullet 60 hours community service.
- Attend course "Driving While Intoxicated."
- Take part in alcohol-drug treatment program (mandatory).

Breathalyzer Test Refusal

Under 18 years of age

1st Offense

- \$200 to \$500 fine.
- 6 month license suspension.
- 10 to 60 hours community service minimum.
- \$500 highway saftey assessment.
- Alcohol or drug treatment or \$250 drunk driving school.

2nd and subsequent Offenses

- \$200 to \$300 fine.
- \$500 highway safety assessment.
- 1- to 3-year license suspension.
- Attend course "Driving While

Intoxicated."

• Take part in alcohol-drug treatment (judge's discretion).

Driving Under the Influence

1st Offense

- \$100 to \$300 fine.
- \$500 highway safety assessment.
- \bullet 3- to 6-month license suspension.
- 10 to 60 hours community ser-

vice and/or up to 1 year in jail.

- Alcohol-drug treatment or \$250 driving school.
- CJIS fee: \$147.

2nd and subsequent Offenses

- \$400 fine.
- \$500 highway safety assessment.
- 1- to 3-year license suspension.
- 10 days to 1 year in jail.
- Alcohol-drug treatment program.
- CJIS fee: \$147.

Driving Under The Influence, Death Resulting (Felony)

- 1st Offense
- \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine.
- 3 years license revocation.
- 2 years to 15 years in jail.

2nd and subsequent Offenses

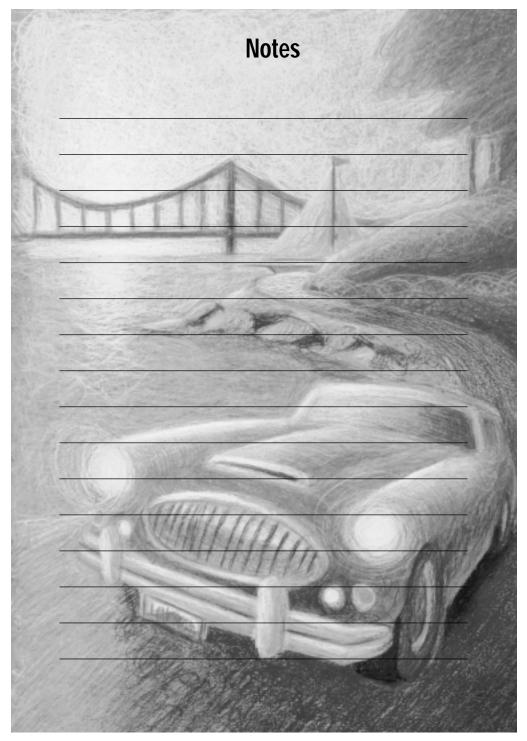
- \$10.000 to \$20.000 fine.
- 5 years license revocation.
- 5-20 years in jail.

General questions pertaining to licensing call or visit the Main Office of the Division of Motor Vehicles, 286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI (588-3020)

Questions regarding Driver Education that is required under the age of 18 call the Rhode Island Department of Education (222-4600)

Questions regarding highway safety may be directed to the Governor's Office on Highway Safety (222-3024)





D.M.V. OFFICES AND BUSINESS HOURS

Middletown 73 Valley Road, Middletown, RI 02842

Open Monday through Friday, 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Pawtucket 286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,

8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M. Thursday, 8:30A.M. to 7:00P.M.

Wakefield Government Center, Tower Hill Road,

Wakefield, RI 02879

Open Wednesday, Thurs., 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Warren Government Center, Police Headquarters, Joyce

Street, Warren, RI 02885

Open Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

West Warwick 1227 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 02893

Open Monday through Friday, 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Westerly Franklin Street, Ocean Plaza, Westerly, RI 02891

Open Monday, Tuesday, Friday 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Woonsocket 162 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Open Monday through Friday, 8:30A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Warwick Rhode Island Mall, Route 2, Warwick, RI 02886

Open Tuesday through Friday, 12:00P.M. to 7:30P.M. Saturday, 12:00P.M. to 4:30P.M.

For More Information Call 588-3020 TDD telephone for hearing impaired: call 722-0088 and ask for assistance.

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES